

2016 DOROTHY COTTON POETRY AWARD

Equal

Mel Keifer (Trumansburg High School)

We are equal they say, As she receives less in her pay
We are equal they chant, As she's told that she can't
We are equal they whispered, And yet she's still blistered
We are equal they called, As she was painfully mauled
We are equal they persisted, As she fought and resisted
We are equal they stated, As she was quickly sedated
We are equal they sighed, As she fell down and cried

We are equal they chime, As tension continues to climb, Because equality takes a long time

But I'm strong she remembers, As she does not surrender
But I'm strong she sighs, As she opens other's eyes
But I'm strong she demands, As she lends her own hands
But I'm strong she calls, As she breaks down these walls

And stands up tall, To yell, come all! Because she needs your assistance to stop all this distance

So one day they can yell "We are equal!," And there will be no upheaval
For these words will be true, All thanks to you